

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4266

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 10951

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, AO, IR

SUBJECT: IRANIAN POSITION ON ANGOLAN RECOGNITION

REF: STATE 265503

DRAWING ON REFTTEL, POLCOUNS DISCUSSED ANGOLAN DEVELOPMENTS WITH HEAD OF MFA AFRICAN DEPT KHERADMEH NOVEMBER 10. KHERADMEH SAID GOI SAW SITUATION MUCH AS WE DO AND WOULD WAIT AND SEE HOW THINGS DEVELOP BEFORE RECOGNIZING ANY FACTION AS GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA. GOI BELIEVES ONLY ABOUT 20 COUNTRIES WOULD RECOGNIZE MPLA IMMEDIATELY IF IT DECLARED ITSELF THE SOLE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT. IF FNLA AND UNITA CAN SCORE SOME IMPORTANT MILITARY SUCCESSES, KHERADMEH HOPES MPLA WILL BE FORCED TO HONOR ITS AGREEMENT TO FORM COALITION GOVERNMENT, BUT THIS IS UNLIKELY IF MPLA CONTINUES TO HOLD CAPITAL, PORTS AND MANY LARGE CITIES. HE THOUGHT ISSUE OF CABINDAN INDEPENDENCE MIGHT HELP DRIVE WEDGE BETWEEN MPLA AND ITS PRINCIPAL BACKERS, OR EVEN SERVE UNDER SOME CIRCUMSTANCES AS BRIDGE TO COOPERATION WITH FNLA AND UNITA, SINCE ALL AGREE CABINDA IS PART OF ANGOLA.

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HELMS

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